

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page \_\_, line \_\_, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 30 on page 10 as follows:

In FIG. 1, the ring scanner 2 produces data sets concerning the contour of said product by a detection of the distance from each of the sensors to each their corresponding points on the surface of the item, by correlation of a calibration distance to a reference point. Said data sets may, referring to FIG. 2A, for example comprise a first distance data set  $d_{11}, d_{12}, d_{13}, \dots, d_{1n}$  acquired from n sensors 22a, 22b, ..., 22n in one position of the item 100 being scanned at time  $t_1$ , and referring to FIG. 2B a second distance data set  $d_{21}, d_{22}, d_{23}, \dots, d_{2n}$  acquired from the same sensors in a second position of the item 100 being scanned at time  $t_2$ . As may be seen from the FIGS. 2A and 2B, the front end surface 102A, 102B of each item 100A, 100B may advantageously be pre-cut perpendicular to the conveying direction (indicated by arrows) and may be of a larger cross section area than the rear end surface 103A of each item, thereby enhancing the supporting effect of the abutting items facilitating an accurate determination of the point of transition between two items 100.

*TMF 9/28/10*  
Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 30 on page 13 as follows:

Transition markers 5 may alternatively or additionally be used in order to provide data concerning the item boundaries to the scanning means, such transition marker could be e.g. a foil or a